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amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 21/18/91
Distr: UA/SC

UA 357/91 Extrajudicial Executions/Arrests/Fear of Torture **28 October 1991**

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR:

SEBASTIAO RANGEL
Afonso Henriques

Aleo (David Conceicao)
and about 20 others

Aleixo Ximenes
Manuelo Constantino Cornelio da Piedade
Domingos Barreto
Deolindo Barreto
Didi Boavida

Two people were reportedly killed and an estimated 20 others arrested when Indonesian security forces entered a church in Dili East Timor in the early hours of 28 October 1991. They were among a group of young people who had taken refuge in the parish church of Motael because they feared reprisals from Indonesian security forces for their political activities. At least five other political activists, and possibly many more, have been arrested within the past two months. Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the safety of all those detained and is calling for an immediate investigation into the circumstances of the reported killings.

The two killed were named as **Sebastiao Rangel**, aged 18, a resident of Vila Verde, Dili, and **Afonso Henriques**, aged 29, of Laga, Baucau; neither of them were armed. According to reports soldiers surrounded the church at about 1:30 am and then entered it, apparently to arrest some or all of those hiding there. Witnesses heard gunshots and later found the two victims dead inside the church compound.

Those reportedly arrested during this incident and taken to the District Police Command (POLWIL) in Dili, included **Aleo (David Conceicao)** who had been detained in October 1990 in connection with his political activities, and reportedly ill-treated in custody (see: AI Statement to the UN Special Committee on Decolonisation, ASA 21/14/91, August 1991). He and one other political detainee, **Jose Antonio Galucho**, are said to have escaped from custody in Comarca prison, Dili, on 19 or 21 October 1991, after hearing rumours that they were going to be killed. From the prison they fled to the church at Motael. Jose Antonio Galucho is said to have evaded arrest on 28 October and sought refuge at the home of Monsignor Belo, the Apostolic Administrator of Dili.

The incident at Motael church occurred against a background of considerable tension in anticipation of a visit to the territory by a delegation of Portuguese parliamentarians, scheduled to begin on 4 November 1991, but recently postponed. Amnesty International has received reliable reports of arrest and intimidation of suspected pro-independence activists.

Those reportedly arrested before the Motael incident include four people believed to be supporters of the Timorese Democratic Union (UDT): **Aleixo Ximenes**, of Baucau, arrested on 18 October; **Manuelo Constantino Cornelio da Piedade**, of Manatuto, arrested on 12 October; **Domingos Barreto** and his brother **Deolindo Barreto**, arrested 23 October 1991. The whereabouts of all four are unknown but they are believed to be in military custody. Also reported missing is **Didi Boavida**, aged 26, of Bairro Formosa, Dili, who was arrested in mid-August 1991. Most of Didi Boavida's relatives were killed in the 1970's but one remaining family member did report the arrest to civilian and church authorities in Dili.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Indonesian forces invaded East Timor in 1975 in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal from its former colony. Since that time Amnesty International has continued to document serious human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory, including extrajudicial execution, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and political imprisonment.

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners*.

At least 30 people, and possibly many more, were killed by Indonesian security forces in 1990 and early 1991 in apparent extrajudicial executions. A pattern of short-term detention, ill-treatment and torture of political detainees appears to have worsened in the last year. More than 400 people have been detained in East Timor since late 1988 for their alleged involvement in pro-independence political activities; at least 200 of them since early 1990. Many may be or may have been prisoners of conscience and many have reportedly been ill-treated or tortured in custody. Forms of torture have included beatings with iron bars, batons and fists, burning with lighted cigarettes, slashing with razor blades and immersion for long periods in fetid water.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:
- expressing serious concern at the reported killing of two unarmed men, Sebastiao Rangel and Afonso Henriques by members of the security forces;

- urging the authorities to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into these possible extrajudicial executions, with the results of the investigation to be made public; and asking to be informed of the progress of the investigation;

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of an estimated 20 people following the shooting incident in a Dili church; and asking to be informed of the precise reasons for their arrest;

- asking the authorities to release those detained solely for their non-violent political activities or beliefs;

- seeking assurances that those detained will be humanely treated;

- calling on the authorities to ensure that all those believed responsible for unlawful killings or ill-treatment of prisoners are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

1. (Minister of Justice)

Ismail Saleh, SH — **Your Excellency**
Jalan Rasuna Said, Kav 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia
Telexes: 44404 DITJENIM IA
Faxes: + 62 21 32 1625

2. (Military Commander for East Timor)

Brig. Gen. Warouw — **Dear Brigadier General**
Markas Besar KOREM 164
Dili, Timor Timur
East Timor

Telegrams: Brig. Gen Warouw, Dili, East Timor

3. (National Chief of Police)

Lieut. Gen. Drs. Kunarto — **Dear Lieutenant General**
Kepala Kepolisian RI
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jalan Trunojoyo 13
Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Telegrams: Lt. Gen. Drs. Kunarto, Kepala Kepolisian RI, Jakarta, Indonesia

4. (Commander in Chief, Armed Forces)

General Try Sutrisno — **Dear General**
Commander of the Armed Forces
Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap
East Jakarta, Indonesia
Telegrams: Gen. Sutrisno, Markas Besar Abri, Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: + 62 21 36 1471 (Armed Forces HQ)
+ 62 21 37 8144) (Army HQ)
+ 62 21 35 6404) " "

COPIES TO:

(Governor of East Timor)

Ir. Mario Carrascalao
Gubernur KDH Tk. 1 Timor Timur
Jalan Inpantai D. Hendrikue, Dili
East Timor
Telegrams: Gubernur Carrascalao, Dili, East Timor

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 December 1991.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

  Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

  Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

  Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

- The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

- Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

- In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

- Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.